(xii) For upgrading infrastructure facilities at important textile centers, a scheme 'Textile Centre Infrastructure Development Scheme" (TCIDS) has been launched.

(xiii) For boosting exports of textile and clothing Government provides financial assistance to Textile Export Promotion Councils under marketing Development Assistance (MDA) Scheme.

Ban on cotton export

1688. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the cotton spinning industry has urged the Union Government to put a ban on cotton export for six months;

(b) if so, the reaction of the Government in this regard;

(c) whether the export of cotton has an adverse impact on indigenous cotton prices; and

(d) if so, the corrective steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI GINGEE N. RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Requests have been received to restrict cotton exports, however, Government is keeping a close watch on domestic as well as international scenario for taking appropriate action as and when considered necessary.

(c) The domestic cotton prices depends upon a host of market forces like (i) the total supply of cotton in the country, which in turn, depends upon the level of production, quantity of cotton imported from outside and quantity of cotton likely to be exported; (ii) the domestic demand for cotton; (iii) the international price and price expectations pertaining to cotton etc. The quantity of cotton, which has been exported from India is insignificant compared to the estimated total production of cotton in the country.

(d) At present both export and import of cotton are free without any restrictions and cotton prices are guided by market forces.